



Spring 1988

WICHITA LIGHTS UP WITH CONVENTION MAGIC

Saturday, February 20 dawned cold and grey in Wichita. Drizzle mixed with snow greeted those hardy enough to venture outside. But at the Ramada Hotel at Broadview those who stepped outside were few indeed, for inside AKT's fourteenth annual convention was in full swing. Nothing could have contrasted more with the chilly weather than the warmth and excitement that contagiously swept through the two hundred Kansas theatre people who had come to Wichita to renew friendships, enjoy performances, and share new ideas in the spirit of the convention theme, *"What Works For Us Now!"*

A rich array of activities and entertainments kept the conventioners hustling from place to place throughout the weekend. Workshops galore offered insights into every aspect of theatre. Repha Buckman's workshop on puppets was definitely a "hands-on" experience, with nearly every participant working one or more puppets that Repha brought from her huge collection.



Repha Buckman demonstrates the working of puppets.

Kneeling on the floor in the midst of a large circle of participants, Patrick Page of the Utah Shakespearean Festival keenly watched the delivery of participants who had prepared lines from *Romeo and Juliet* and *Richard III* and offered amazingly effective directorial comments in his rich, deep voice.



Patrick Page discusses a scene from "Romeo and Juliet."

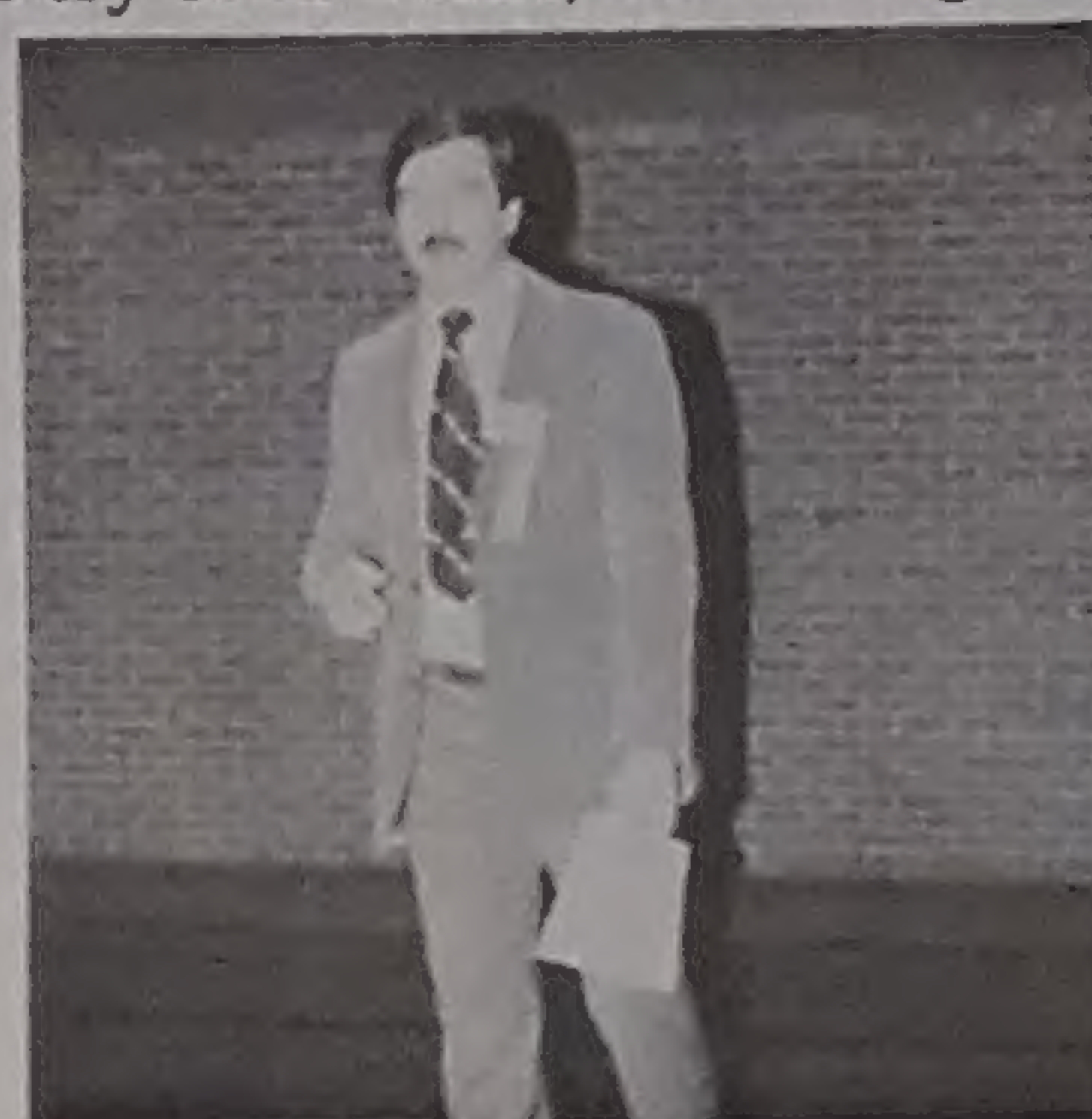
Susan Mai, costumer for Emporia State University Theatre, wheeled in a large rack of costumes both outlandish and sublime and recounted imaginative techniques for making them durable, and inexpensive.

Those who attended Bob Kelly's workshop on wigs gathered close as Bob, tattooed arms visible as he stripped down to his undershirt, regaled the audience with stories of his years at the Metropolitan Opera and elsewhere in New York as he teased and curled one hairdo after another.



Bob Kelly teases a wig

On and on they went for the three days of convention: workshops on writing, on acting, on directing, on technical theatre, on making theatre available to the handicapped, on getting grants, on theatre administration, on theatre and anthropology, on the psychology of theatrical and athletic performance, on creativity, on dance, on theatre for children, on theatre in the university. Wonderful workshops, exciting workshops, thought-provoking workshops, a wealth of tips and insights to try back home, something — many things — for everyone.



Incoming President Lendley Black introduces the University/College Performance Festival



Carol Wright-Krause critiques a University/College performance.

And the performances — enough to keep your head spinning and hands clapping throughout the entire weekend. Johnson County Juco, WSU, KU, and ESU performed scenes from a variety of plays (two of them Greek tragedies, as it happened) in the University/College Performance Festival, and Carol Wright-Krause masterfully engaged the audience in critique and appreciation following each performance. On Friday evening the conventioners dispersed to shows around Wichita: *"Godspell"* at Heights High School, *"The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas"* at the Crown-Uptown Theatre, *"And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little"* at the Wichita Community Workshop Theatre.

Ric Averill's Seem-To-Be Players performed their version of "Rudyard Kipling's Just-So-Stories" at Wichita Children's Theatre on Saturday morning. That evening the performance space at the convention hotel was graced by *"Under Age II: Minor Problems,"* a high energy and thought-provoking show about today's teens written and performed by students from Lawrence High School, and a stunning performance of modern dance by KU's Scott Morrow Dance Theatre.

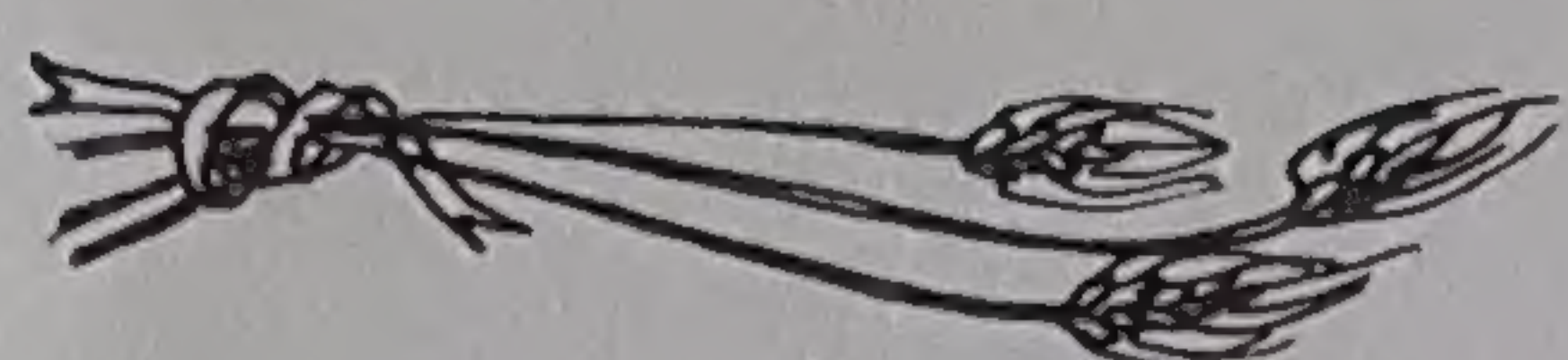
And it didn't stop there. All-Convention Dinners, awards for outstanding contributions to Kansas theatre, dinner addresses — on creativity by writer and artist Gordon MacKenzie of Hallmark Cards, on the state of the arts in Kansas by Leah Ann Anderson, President of the Kansas Arts Commission — and, of course, afterglow parties Friday and Saturday nights.

If Saturday dawned chilly and grey, in typical Kansas fashion Sunday was sunny and warm. The weather mirrored the glow that AKT members felt as they said good-bye and started for home with a touch of wistfulness that it was all over.

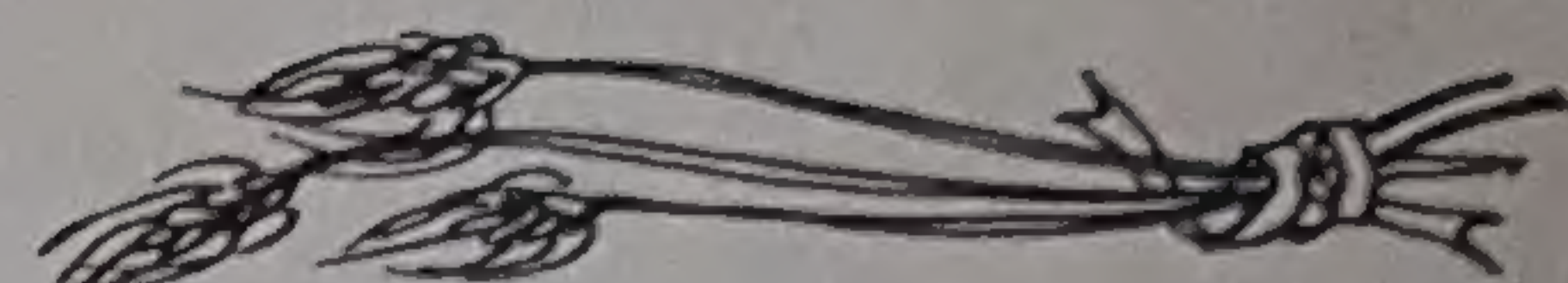
Repha Buckman, loading her station wagon with box after box of puppets, paused for a moment to buttonhole another AKT member. She wanted to talk about an idea she had for a joint workshop at next year's convention. So even as this wonderfully exciting, entertaining, and educational convention was drawing to a close, plans for the next one were being laid.



Executive Director Louise Hanson flashes her tap shoes.



AKT AWARDS FOR 1987



Hall of Fame inductee Charles Lown, applauded by Lendley Black



Teresa Stohs and John Stefano induct Richard Welsbacher into the AKT Hall of Fame

Individuals who have made signal contributions to theatre in Kansas were honored at the AKT convention in Wichita, February 19-21.

Charles Lown and **Richard Welsbacher** received the association's highest honor: induction into the *AKT Hall of Fame*.

Having taught in several universities during his career, Dr. Lown retired ten years ago from the University of Kansas Department of Theatre and Media Arts, where he was technical director and lighting designer. Over his teaching career he has been mentor to numerous students who have gone on to make their own mark in theatre.

Since his retirement Dr. Lown has been active in the development of the Lawrence Community Theatre. When LCT acquired its own quarters, Dr. Lown's technical expertise was crucial in converting the building from a church to a theatre. He designed the entire lighting system for the facility, and supervised scores of volunteers in the work of renovation. Since the new theatre opened, he has designed the lighting for many productions and has trained others through special workshops on theatrical lighting.

Richard Welsbacher, faculty member at Wichita State University, has been director of the WSU Theatre for twenty-five years. During that time he has founded several new programs, such as the WSU Summer Theatre and Experimental Theatre. He has received the Regents Excellence in Teaching Award and the WSU Alumni Recognition Award.

Beyond the university, Dr. Welsbacher has appeared in countless Wichita Community Theatre productions and has been the narrator for the Wichita Symphony for many years. He has received the Wichita Arts Council Award for his outstanding cultural contribution to the city.

Ric Averill, founder and artistic director of the Seem-To-Be Players, received AKT's *Outstanding Achievement in Theatre Award*. The Seem-To-Be Players have been entertaining children and adults in Lawrence and in Kansas for fourteen years. Many of their productions, including the "Nyfrm the Sprite" series, have been written, as well as produced and directed by Mr. Averill.

Totally devoted to theatre, Ric Averill has also been a highly effective director of the Lawrence Summer Youth Theatre, and serves as Artist-in-Residence for the Lawrence Public Schools, and performs summer vaudeville with his Ric Averill Players at Apple Valley Farm, Perry Lake.

An *Outstanding Achievement in Theatre*

Award was also presented to **Wichita State University Theatre** for its national competitions in scene and design and in playwriting. For thirteen years WSU Theatre conducted the nation's only undergraduate competition for scene and design. Outstanding professional designers have come to Wichita annually as judges, and winning designs have been displayed coast to coast in art museums, colleges, and at theatre conventions.

The playwriting competition, now in its fourteenth year, provides talented young authors with an outlet for their work. Winning scripts are produced by the WSU Theatre, and the playwrights are brought to Wichita to work with the production. By means of these two unique and innovative programs, WSU Theatre makes a major contribution to theatre in Kansas and to the place of Kansas theatre in the nation.

The *Steven B. Cathey Award* was presented to **Exline, Inc.** of Salina. Named in memory of an executive of Southwestern Bell Corporation, the award recognizes individuals and firms for exemplary service in promoting cooperation between business and theatre in Kansas. Among Exline's contributions are underwriting many productions at Salina Community Theatre, initiating the Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company, and sponsoring exhibits at Salina Art Center and a professional performing group at the Smoky Hill River Festival.

In addition to these corporate activities, the three Exline brothers who head the company — Bob, Jerry, and Doug — all participate in theatre and the other arts in Salina and the surrounding region. Mary and Carol Exline, wives of Bob and Jerry, are likewise active volunteers in the Salina Art Center and the Salina Community Theatre.

An *Award of Merit* was presented to **James Williams**, Director of the Division of Communications, Johnson County Community College. Dr. Williams was honored for his outstanding efforts on behalf of the establishment of a new arts center in Johnson County.

Each year AKT makes special awards to persons in secondary education. This year, awards for *Outstanding Administrator in Support of Theatre Education* were made to **John Enos**, Principal of Hanover High School, and to **Brad Tate**, Principal of Lawrence High School.

Outstanding Theatre Teacher/Director Awards were presented to **Gina Austin-Fresh** (Wichita West HS), **Joseph Diekmann** (Tipton HS), **Lisa Divel** (Chapman HS), **Doug Goheen** (Topeka West HS), **Kathie McCormally** (McLouth HS), and **Phyllis Shanks** (Jefferson County North HS).

REPHA BUCKMAN WINS AWARD FOR SCRIPT

The Midwest Radio Theatre Workshop recently announced the four winners of their Eighth Annual Script Contest. One of the winners was Repha Buckman of Sterling, Kansas for her radio play, *Broken Pieces*, a gripping story about the sale of a family farm. Ms. Buckman, a former instructor of theatre, writing, speech and English is currently a Poet-In-Education for the Wichita Public Schools under the sponsorship of the Kansas Arts Commission. She has authored, produced or directed numerous plays.

The winning plays were broadcast in March across the nation via the National Public Radio Satellite System, MRTW LIVE!, and were directed and produced by an international staff and members of the Midwest Radio Theatre Workshop. Repha is well-known to AKT through her association with Tri-Crown Productions in Sterling. Congratulations, Repha!

If you would like information about the next radio drama script contest, contact:

The Midwest Radio Theatre Workshop
KOPN Radio
915 East Broadway
Columbia, MO 65201
(314) 874-1139



KARTS Offers Workshops

The Kansas Arts Resource Training Systems has announced a program of three simultaneous workshops to be held at the Lawrence Arts Center (9th and Vermont Streets), Saturday, April 16, 1988, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Since 1985, KARTS has been bringing quality training in arts related services to those who work with special needs individuals throughout the state of Kansas.

The workshops are: **Music and Expressive Movement**, presented by Bonnie Burnside; **Visual Expression with a Storyline**, presented by Sharon Loveless; **Storytelling and Puppetry Through Your Senses**, presented by Joleen Macy Thompson.

Free art supplies will be donated by the Binney & Smity Company. This State Department of Education program may be considered for inservice credit.

To register, send your name, address and telephone number to: Kansas Arts Resource Training System, 1100 State Ave., Kansas City, KS 66102 (913) 281-3308, ext. 412.

SPECIAL NOTICES TO ALL AKT MEMBERS!!

• To all AKT member theatres with a discounted or free ticket policy to AKT members: *Please* remember to notify your box office about your theatre's policy regarding free or discounted tickets to patrons holding a current AKT membership card. The AKT office has heard several complaints from members that they show their card at a box office that has announced a discount to AKT members, and the box office attendant knows nothing about the special arrangement, much to the embarrassment of all concerned.

• In the near future, you will receive a form from the AKT office which asks you to list the particulars of your summer productions. Please return the form promptly to our office so that your theatre can be listed in the AKT Summer Production Directory.

• Please be sure that your theatre has placed the AKT office on its permanent mailing list to receive your newsletters and other announcements. This is the best way for AKT to keep abreast of what is happening with our theatres throughout the state. We want to hear from YOU!!

AKT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Memberships are valid September 1 to August 31 of each year.
Make check payable to "AKT"

Categories of Membership

Individual	Regular	\$18
	Student/Senior	\$10
	Contributing*	\$40
	Sustaining*#	\$100
	ANGEL*#	\$125

Organization

Small (budget under \$5,000/year)	\$35
Medium (budget \$5,000-\$9999/year)	\$40
Large (budget over \$10,000/year)	\$70
ANGEL*#	\$125
Corporate*#	\$150

* Includes a tax deductible contribution.

Convention registration fee is waived for Sustainers and ANGELS.

Division Affiliation (choose one)

Children's Theatre _____ Community Theatre (KCTC) _____

Professional Theatre _____ Secondary School Theatre _____

University/College Theatre _____

MAIL APPLICATION & CHECK TO: AKT CENTRAL OFFICE,
1628 DUDLEY COURT, LAWRENCE, KS 66044 (913) 842-3502.

COMMUNITY THEATRES LOCATE PERSONNEL

A new service for all community theatre organizations and theatre-connected individuals is now being offered by the American Association of Community Theatres (AACT, formerly ACTA).

JOBSearch — a clearinghouse for organizations seeking staff and for individuals in search of a different position — is now a regular feature in AACT's bimonthly newsletter, *Spotlight*.

JOBSearch is open to all persons and groups involved with community theatre, and membership in AACT is not required to place a HELP WANTED or a POSITION WANTED ad. However, members of AACT do receive a rate discount, plus a special free bonus opportunity to use the column.

The HELP WANTED section is for theatres, educational organizations, arts agencies, businesses, etc., seeking persons for specific positions. The rate for each 50-word ad is \$30 per issue. For subsequent listings in the ensuing 12 months, the rate is reduced to \$20 per 50-word ad. Organizations with membership in AACT are entitled to one free listing per year. The rates are the same for individuals using the POSITIONS WANTED section. Individuals who are members of AACT are also entitled to one free ad per year. "Blind ads," without a name or address, are available for an additional handling charge of \$10 per insert.

As is customary, JOBSearch retains the right to edit or refuse any ad. JOBSearch will not collect or distribute resumes or other information.

To place a JOBSearch ad in *Spotlight*, contact: Kay Fliehr, JOBSearch, 4501 Belvidere Lane, Edina, MN 55435 (612) 927-4758.

To join AACT, contact: Ginny Weaver, AACT Treasurer, Omaha Community Playhouse, 6915 Cass Street, Omaha, NE 68132 (402) 553-4890.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE ANNOUNCES 1988 STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADUATE THEATRE MAJORS

How would your theatre students like to study in Europe next summer while earning 3 or 6 hours of undergraduate or graduate credit in theatre? People to People International has developed a unique new traveling seminar that could very well prove to be a life changing experience.

Together with the University of Missouri-Kansas City, People to People International is sponsoring the 1988 Collegiate Study Abroad Program, which offers college students from all over the country the opportunity to experience Europe while earning upper division or graduate credit. The two courses are entitled:

THEATRE MANAGEMENT IN THE
NATIONAL THEATRE SYSTEMS OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE
June 5 - July 5, 1988
6 credits

BRITISH SHAKESPEAREAN
PRODUCTION
AND THE CONTEMPORARY CRITIC
London and Stratford-Upon-Avon
June 12 - June 27, 1988
3 credits

For further information and application forms, please contact:

Dr. Alan Warne,
People to People International
501 East Armour Boulevard
Kansas City, Missouri 64109
(816) 531-4701



Innovations of the Century —

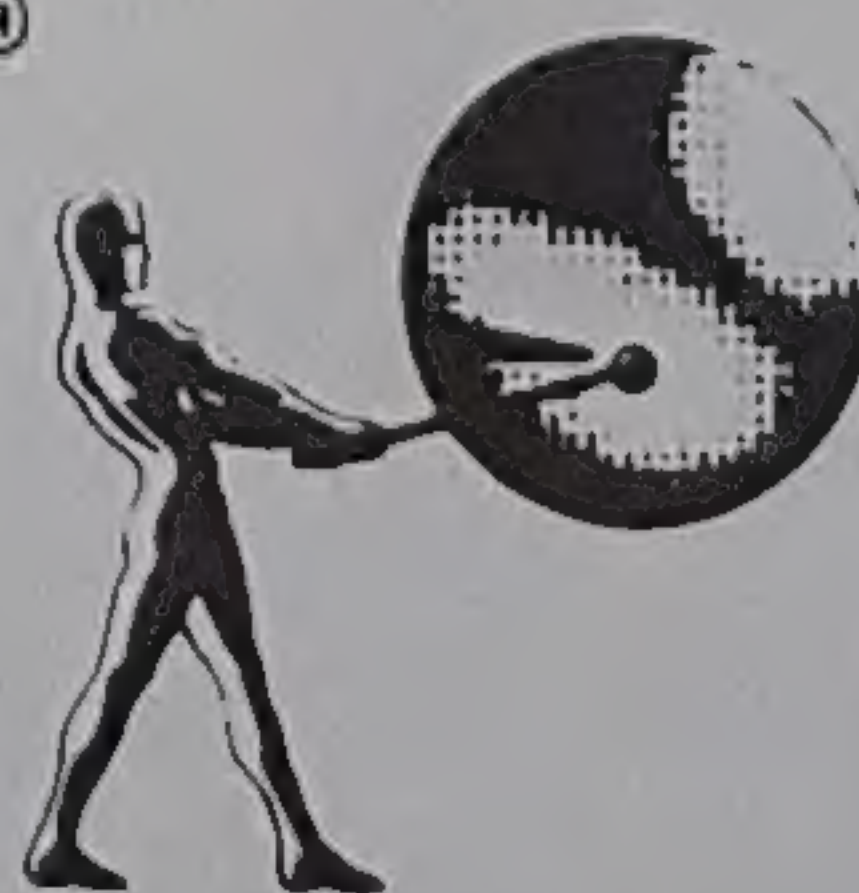
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1024 Hoel Parkway
Kansas City, Kansas 66102
Phone 913-621-5405

**Theatrical
Services
Inc.**
128 S. Washington
Wichita, Kansas 67202
316-263-4415

AACT/FEST '89

The AKT Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Denny Vick of Hutchinson has graciously agreed to serve as the Kansas 1989 AACT/Fest Chair. Stephen Mills of the Hutchinson Theatre Guild, Inc., and Bill Brewer of Hutchinson Community College will be working with Denny on local arrangements organization and technical problems of mounting the festival in Hutchinson. Also involved with arrangements for the festival is Jackie Hinton, Chair of the Community Theatre Division of AKT.

As with the AACT/FEST held in Salina last year, the festival will be held in conjunction with AKT's annual convention.

Plan now for your theatre's participation in AACT/FEST '89! Dates: Friday, March 10 - Sunday, March 12, 1989.

The community theatre placing first in the state AACT/FEST competition will go on to compete in the Region V festival, to be held later in the spring of '89 in Springfield, Missouri. Finally, the winners of the 10 regional theatre competitions will travel to the Omaha Community Playhouse in Omaha, Nebraska, June 21-25 for the national AACT/FEST competition. But that's not all folks! The national winner will represent the United States in the international competition in Monaco.



FIRST BI-ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR COMMUNITY THEATRE TO BE HELD IN JUNE

Kalamazoo Civic Players of Kalamazoo, Michigan will host the first bi-annual convention for community theatres, June 15-19, 1988. The convention will feature numerous workshops conducted by community theatre people for community theatre people. Examples are: volunteer management, budget planning and control, stage dialects, achieving special effects, adjudication and scene painting techniques.

Performances will showcase a cross-section of community theatre offerings including those from: a black theatre company, a children's theatre company, a community theatre producing a new play, a foreign amateur theatre, a small theatre with no paid staff, and one of the largest community theatres in the United States.

To receive a registration form, write or call James Carver at: Kalamazoo Civic Players, 329 S. Park, Kalamazoo, MI 49007, (616) 343-1313.

VIDEOTAPES AVAILABLE ON LOAN FROM AKT

The VHS videotapes listed below are available for borrowing free of charge. Simply phone or mail your request to the AKT office: 1628 Dudley Court, Lawrence, KS 66044 (913) 842-3502.

Make-up Workshop, with Dana Nye; part 1, 30 minutes; part 2, 60 minutes; part 3, 25 minutes.

1986 Convention speech by Dr. Steven Kaagen, 20 minutes; includes introduction by Harld Blackburn and brief remarks by Governor John Carlin.

"Think-tank" Workshop, conducted by Carol Fineberg; part 1, 45 minutes; part 2, 50 minutes.

1986 Convention Keynote address by Colleen Dewhurst, 25 minutes.

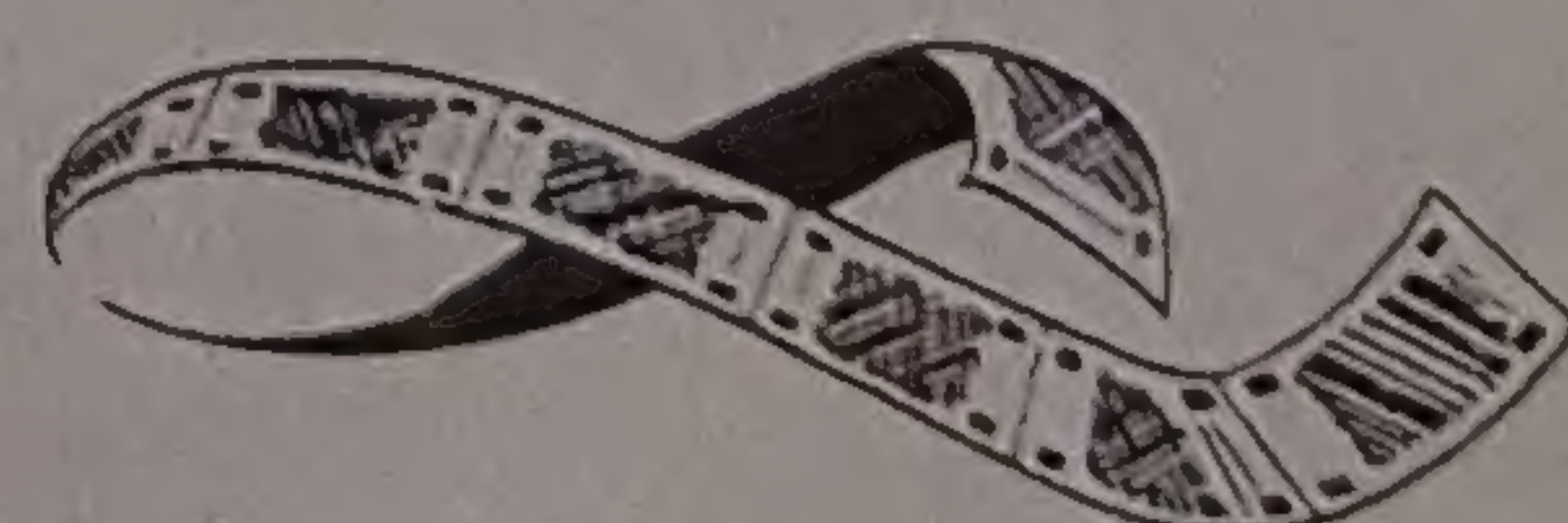
1986 Convention production: **"Jeff and Julie."**

Make-up Workshop, with Arden Weaver.

Ticket Sales and Computer Workshop, with Leon Scioscia; part 1, box-office; part 2, marketing.

Chamber and Interpretive Theatre Workshop, with Ronald Frederickson.

Technical Theatre, "Short Cuts and Cheap Tricks."

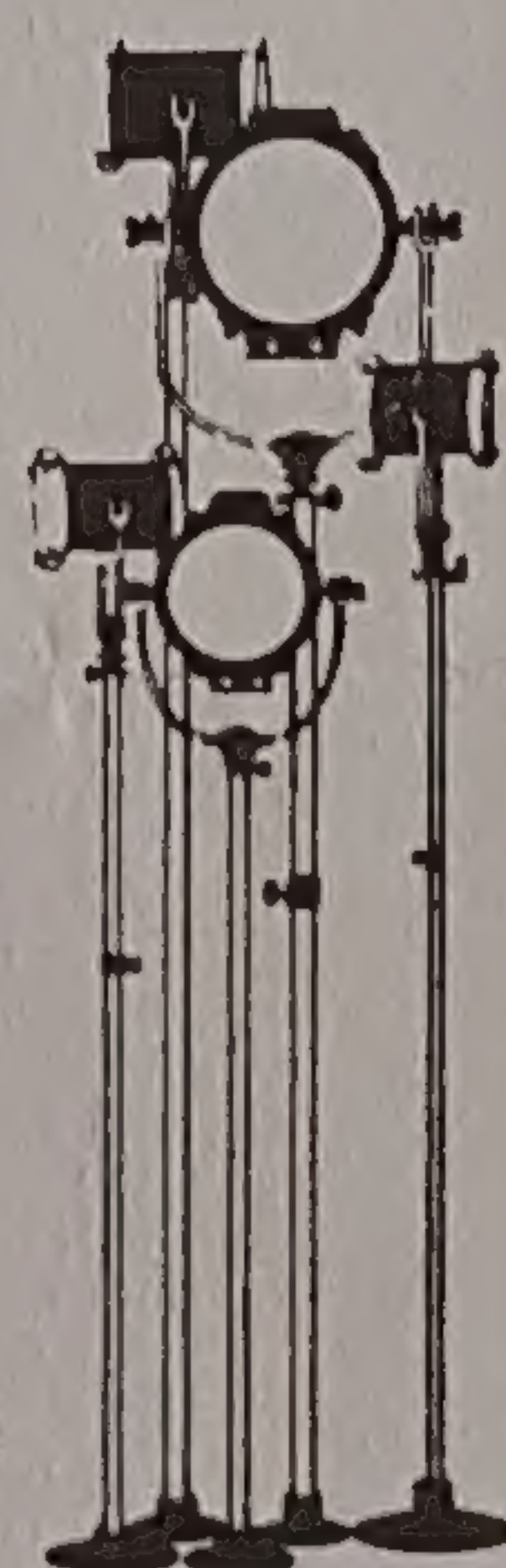


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NEW AND NOTEWORTHY RESOURCES

Stage Management: A Guidebook of Practical Techniques, 3rd ed., by Lawrence Stern. Needham Heights, Massachusetts: Allyn and Bacon, 1987. Ideal for professional, community, and amateur theatre... this comprehensive handbook covers everything a stage manager needs to know to do the job right. It's been called "the bible" of stage management... useful for students learning to tackle this complex job and for experienced stage managers who want a handy reference or refresher on any point. Over 100 full-page illustrations, charts, samples, forms, checklists, diagrams, and hands-on tools are provided.

Stagecraft: A Handbook for Organization, Construction and Management, 2nd ed., by David Welker. Needham Heights, Massachusetts: Allyn and Bacon, 1987. With clearly written text, numerous photos, illustrations and diagrams, the how to's of building, painting, and storing all types of scenery — plus methods, tips and techniques for managing the scene shop and crew are described.

RED CIRCLE ALERT!!

If the address label on this issue of your **Marquee** has a red circle around the year designation in the upper right-hand corner, your AKT membership, alas!, has lapsed. This means that this is the last communication you will be receiving from AKT unless we receive your membership renewal check pronto! Should you have questions concerning your membership status, write Louise Hanson, AKT Executive Director, at the AKT office. Or phone, (913) 842-3502.



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Wichita, KS 67202
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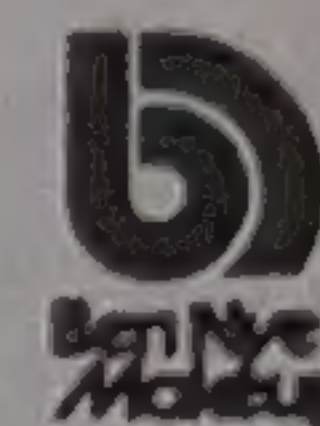


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Ben Nye Cosmetics, 11571 Santa Monica Blvd.
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The AKT Central Office is located at 1628 Dudley Court, Lawrence, KS 66044. Telephone: (913) 842-3502. Executive Director: Louise Hanson.

Marquee is published four times a year as a membership service. Editor: Louise Hanson. Members are encouraged to submit information and articles about their work, special interests, honors/awards, or issues of concern to the general membership.

The mention of any product, service, publication, conference, workshop, meeting, etc. in **Marquee** does not constitute endorsement or sponsorship, nor is it an indication of quality by **Marquee** or AKT unless specifically stated.

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